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*Admitted only in Maryland
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*Practice limited to
Federal Agencies

February 12, 2010

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Art Unit 1635

Attn: Mail Stop AF

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 10/551,466; Filing Date: August 7, 2006
For: **Conjugate for Gene Transfer Comprising Oligonucleotide and
Hydrophilic Polymer, Polyelectrolyte Complex Micelles Formed
from the Conjugate, and Methods for Preparation Thereof**
Inventors: JEONG *et al.*
Our Ref: 2236.0180000/JUK/SMW

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action is the following document:

1. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

The above-listed document is being filed electronically through EFS-Web.

The original due date for filing this reply was Tuesday, February 9, 2010. Applicants note, however, that the USPTO was closed for the entire day due to adverse weather conditions in the Washington, DC area, on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 through Thursday, February 11, 2010. 37 CFR 1.9(h) provides that the definition of "Federal holiday within the District of Columbia" includes an official closing of the Office. When the entire USPTO is officially closed for business for an entire day, for reasons due to adverse weather or other causes, the Office will consider each such day a "Federal holiday within the District of Columbia" under 35 U.S.C. 21. Any action or fee due on such a day may be taken, or fee paid, on the next succeeding business day the Office is open. See MPEP §510(I). Thus, Tuesday, February 9, 2010, through Thursday, February 11, 2010, are all considered Federal holidays since the USPTO was closed for the entire day on all days. Accordingly, the due date for filing the present reply has been extended to the succeeding business day that the USPTO is open, i.e., Friday, February 12, 2010; thus, the present reply is considered timely filed.

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In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Woodhouse', is written over the printed name.

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JUK/SMW:dbj
Enclosures

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